

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on

Monday, January 28, 2008

CDFA Auditorium

1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present

Greg Coleman
Edgar "Pete" Downs
Ben Drake
Hugh (Wally) Ewart

Drew Johnson
Frank Leeds
Steve McIntyre
Dana Merrill

Herb Schmidt
Jim Unti

Members Absent

Kevin Andrew
Dennis Atkinson
Bradford Lange

Al Rossini
Steve Schafer

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present

George Bruening
Nat DiBuduo
Ben Drake
David House
Scott Hudson
Nancy Ireland

Drew Johnson
Richard Mounts
Corky Roche
Judy Stewart-Leslie
Beth Stone-Smith

Robert Wample
Craig Weaver
David Whitmer
David Wineman

Members Absent

Kevin Andrew
Ted Batkin

Larry Bezark
Joe MacIlvaine

Steve Nation
John Snyder

OTHER ATTENDEES

Alan Bennett
Patrina Brennan
David Elms
Tom Esser
Ken Freeze
Janice Hagan
Craig Hanes
Barry Hill
Anne Jacobs
Kyle Jensen

Eric Lauritzen
Janet LeMasters
Mike Miller
David Morgan
Greg Morris
Kari Morrow
Warren Nichols
Stacie Oswald
Richard Pierce
Tyson Porter

Ted Reiger
Karen Ross
Roger Spencer
Youngsoo Son
Bob Wynn
Sean Veling
Myrna Villegas
Doug West
Rosie Yacoub

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Ben Drake called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Ben Drake also served as the Acting PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson during the meeting.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force. Quorums were present for both groups.

Secretary A.G. Kawamura addressed the members and guests, speaking briefly about current issues such as invasive pests and the state budget situation. He thanked the PD/GWSS Board and the ATF members for their efforts in the fight against Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter, and reminded everyone of the importance of working together to overcome the challenges facing agriculture.

Bob said that PDCP staff from headquarters and field offices were present and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He stated that these were the people who had been behind the success of the PDCP for the past seven years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Ben Drake welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Ben mentioned that he was happy to be chair for the past year and thanked everyone.

Bob gave an update on the Light Brown Apple Moth stating that the federal Office of Management and Budget had approved \$74.5 million for the California project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Ben Drake asked the Board and ATF members to review the minutes for the previous meeting held in Sonoma on November 1 and 2, 2007.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded and passed by the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force to approve the minutes of the November 1 and 2, meeting.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Ben Drake stated that the nominations for new Board officers were as follows:

Chairperson: Herb Schmidt; Vice Chairperson: Al Rossini; and Treasurer: Jim Unti

ELECTION OF PD/GWSS BOARD OFFICERS

Chairperson Ben Drake asked the Board to vote on new officers. They unanimously passed the following motion and respectfully recommended the following:

- ❖ It was moved by Steve McIntyre, seconded by Drew Johnson, and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend to the Secretary that the slate of new Board officers recommended by the Nomination Committee be appointed.

After the vote, Bob Wynn presented outgoing Chairperson Ben Drake with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him for his leadership and hard work.

NEXT MEETING

The next PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force joint meeting was scheduled for April 22 and 23, 2008, in Ventura.

FISCAL UPDATE

Kari Morrow presented an update on the PDCP State Program Operation's budget, the Board's Revenues and Expenditure's Summary, and the Federal FY 2008 Funding Report. Kari noted the 10% General Fund budget cut of \$461,000 reflected in the PDCP State Operations budget for FY 2008-09. The PDCP Board budget had a \$9,478,000 carry over from FY 2006-07 into FY 2007-08. A \$1 million decrease in funding from the USDA was expected in Federal FY 2008. PDCP can absorb the \$1 million reduction in Federal FY 2008 due to de-obligated/carryover funds of \$2.8 million from Federal FY 2007. However, there is an estimated carryover of \$91,372 from Federal FY 2008 that will not be able to cover the anticipated deficit for Federal FY 2009.

Chairperson-elect Herb Schmidt formed a strategic planning committee to discuss fiscal issues and PDCP program priorities. The members include Dana Merrill, Frank Leeds, Ben Drake, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, Kevin Andrew, and Dave Whitmer.

PIPRA UPDATE

Alan Bennett and Kyle Jensen gave an update on PIPRA's PD/GWSS activities. They are continuing to add to and organize information and data on their website for researchers and program administrators. Access to this information would be through the URL "piercesdisease.org." They also talked about the intellectual property audits they are conducting on selected research projects.

RESEARCH PROGRAM REPORT

PD/GWSS Research Director Nancy Irelan reviewed the research delivery pipeline and talked about addressing intellectual property rights and the regulatory hurdles. She has been working with Dr. Deborah Golino (Director, UC Davis Foundation Plant Service) on PD/GWSS education outreach for the grape and wine industry. She has also been working with PIPRA.

Nancy reported she had been asked to sign a mutual nondisclosure agreement as a condition for viewing a patent application pertaining to work conducted by Dr. Steven Lindow at UC Berkeley, and asked for guidance from PDCP. Staff indicated they will investigate and get back to her.

Tom Esser gave an update on the joint CDFA-UC PD/GWSS RFP. The due date for submission of research proposals was January 15, 2008. A total of 45 proposals were submitted. We are now in the review phase of the RFP process, and anticipate having a recommendation for the Board by mid-April 2008.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR RFP

Tom Esser stated that the Research Director contract was due to expire on June 30, 2008. Since it takes about six months to complete the RFP process for this type of service, this would be the time for the Board to decide if the services of a Research Director were wanted. A short-term extension of the contract may also be possible, provided there were funds remaining in the current contract to cover work done beyond the termination date. After discussion, it was M/S/P by the Board to request PDCP go forward with a Research Director RFP.

NURSERY PILOT PROGRAM AND APPROVED TREATMENT IMPLEMENTATION

David House, Chairman of the Nursery Subcommittee, began with a recap of the history of the Ad hoc Committee, reviewed the Nursery Stock Approved Treatment Protocol, their mission, objective, purpose, the current system, the best management practices (BMP), the January 2008 GWSS Nursery Stock Approved Treatment Manual, regulations, training for employees, the scientific review by the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) led by Bob Dowell, and the draft protocols and matrix.

Greg Morris went over the revised draft nursery stock approved-treatment protocol and the enforcement/penalty matrix documents which incorporated changes (in blue type) suggested the day before by the CACASA Advisory Work Group. The original drafts of these two documents had also been sent to all agricultural commissioners for their review and input.

During the discussion, concerns were raised regarding the efficacy of the treatment in certain specific situations, such as overhead irrigation and on ground cover plants. The suggestion was made that the CACASA Advisory Work Group, the members of the Science Advisory Panel, Bob Dowell, and Rick Redak have a conference call to narrow down and resolve various issues so that CDFA could move forward with the protocol.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed until the next joint meeting.

AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith provided a brief update on the areawide programs in Riverside, Kern, Tulare, and Ventura counties. Beth said that, based on trap catches, Temecula would need to undergo significant treatment activity this year. Fall foliar treatments had been applied in Kern and Tulare counties, with good results.

PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed until the next joint meeting.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

Not held.

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

None

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.